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Lebanon truce reported endangered in South

BEIRUT. — A threat to the Lebanese civil war cease-fire built up yesterday in the complex battle-ground of south Lebanon near the Israeli border.

Right-wing Christian militia commanders claim the Palestine Liberation Organization refuses to hand over their heavy weapons to a Syrian Arab League peacekeeping force and instead are moving them to the border area. There the Christians are threatening Christian villages, the Christians claimed.

The Palestinians must understand their actions will result in an escalation of the (Palestinian) situation, said Pierre Gemayel, head of the Christian Phalange Party.

Christians said the Palestinians had their weapons south in the knowledge the Syrian troops make up the bulk of the 300-men Arab League force are reluctant to enter the border area for fear of provoking Israel.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials rejected the warning that Israel not tolerate any foreign force in the border area. They said they did not verify reports of a Palestinian buildup.

Gemayel was reported by a Lebanese news agency to have told Foad Butros, Foreign Minister in Lebanon's new reconstruction government: "We will never surrender our heavy weapons nor will we relinquish our barracks before all other groups and militias have surrendered theirs."

Residents in the south reported only sporadic exchanges of mortar fire between Christians and terrorists who are supported by Moslem-leftist militias.

Kamal Jumblatt, leader of the Moslem-leftist alliance, claimed Christian militiamen blew up houses in a Moslem village inside the Christian enclave northeast of Beirut. Jumblatt said the Christians smuggled explosives past peacekeeping forces in two coffins.

However, the central command of the Lebanese Moslem-leftist coalition of 12 parties issued a statement saying it is preparing a list of its heavy weapons to put them under the control of the peacekeeping force.

The peacekeeping force of Syrian, Saudi Arabian, and Sudanese troops was bolstered yesterday by a force of 1,500 soldiers from the United Arab Emirates. They crossed the border from Syria and headed south, according to an informed source. (AP)



Foreign Minister Allon playfully pinches nose of little boy at Maale Adumim during his tour of the area yesterday. (Rahamin Yisraeli)

Allon to start talks on Jordan valley settlements

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said yesterday that he soon will begin discussions with Prime Minister Rabin on intensifying settlement west of the Jordan River and north of the Dead Sea.

Allon said that he will also recommend transforming the new settlements of Ma'ale Adumim, on the Jerusalem-Jericho road, and Ma'ale Ephraim, overlooking the Danyia (Adam) Bridge, into urban centers. He asserted that heightened settlement on the eastern fringes of the West Bank, as in Gush Etzion, the Rafah Approaches and Sharm e-Sheikh (Ophira), would serve as a lever in Israel's political struggle.

The Foreign Minister made the remarks after touring the lines of the "Allon Plan," which he first proposed nine years ago. The tour included a drive along the 22-km-long "Allon Road" linking Ma'ale Adumim with Ma'ale Ephraim, and subsequently on the road to Beit Shean, across the Judean and Samaritan

hills and mountains paralleling the Jordan River.

Much of the still dirt road remains tricky, rocky and deserted, but it was certainly developing into a visible landmark of the Allon Plan — which many observers view as the only political scheme ever outlined by an Israeli official in clear-cut terms.

Allon yesterday visited a newly established irrigation plant, pumping one million cubic metres of water from the Jordan River into land now under cultivation.

The Foreign Minister declined to discuss the political effect of the Allon Plan on future negotiations with Jordan. "We control the west bank of the Jordan River and the Hashemite Kingdom controls the eastern one. Things are quiet here. Tranquillity is mutual, just as its violation is mutual," he said, stressing that his tour could be linked to Israel's quest to draw the lines of its future security boundaries.

Labour bid to keep Mapam in the Alignment

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

Prime Minister Rabin will address Mapam's Rikuz on Monday in an attempt to convince that party to continue its Alignment with Labour. Other Labour ministers have asked to address Mapam forums before Mapam's convention on January 30 decides on the Alignment's future.

Rabin met Mapam secretary-general Meir Talmi yesterday. A party official said the main issue was how much territory Israel should yield in a peace agreement.

Mapam is demanding "a far-reaching territorial compromise on all fronts including Judea and Samaria." An authoritative party source said it would agree to drop the term "far-reaching" but will insist on a pull-back on all fronts.

Rabin had declared at Mapam's last convention in the summer that he supports a significant pull-back on all fronts. The Labour leaders cannot commit their party to new policies as long as its convention hasn't approved them, but the Mapam source said Rabin could inform Rikuz of his views.

B'nai B'rith man: PLO still for Israel destruction

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — A B'nai B'rith official who last month attended a meeting here with two representatives of the PLO says that the terrorist organization has not abandoned its objective of destroying Israel.

Herman Edelsberg, past director of the B'nai B'rith International Council, said in a letter to "The New York Times" published yesterday that most American Jews who attended the sessions with the PLO are away "more suspicious of intentions than when they are in."

Edelsberg was replying to an

article in the "Times" earlier this month by Arthur Waskow of B'nai B'rith, who also attended the Washington meeting with the PLO. Waskow had come away from the session apparently convinced of PLO "moderation."

Edelsberg, who was initially criticized by other American Jewish leaders for attending the meeting, said that Waskow had come to the session with his mind already made up. "He (Waskow) told the PLO-ers he would support their right to participate in the Geneva conference regardless of whether they were prepared to publicize their recognition of Israel," Edelsberg said.

Top PLO man in Amman

IST Middle East Affairs Correspondent

A top official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Abdul-Mohi Abu Maizer, has been conducting talks in Amman for the past 10 days on the possibility of closing the political gap between his movement and Jordan. Abu Maizer belongs to a faction which advocates PLO coordination with Amman and Jordan, both now building up a federal union between them.

Abu Maizer, who is the PLO spokesman, is officially attending Islamic conference on Jerusalem the Jordanian capital. He is an ex-Jerusalemite who was based in Jerusalem 1973 for anti-Israel activity.

Abu Maizer's presence in Amman coincided with that of former Hezbollah leader Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abari. The latter has been attending PLO coordination with Amman and stressing that Jordan's role in the West Bank should be reversed effectively. Jordan lost claim to the West Bank to the PLO by the of a pan-Arab decision passed Rabat two years ago.

Begin pledges Likud to work for peace

TEL AVIV. — Likud leader Menachem Begin told the first large rally of the elections campaign that a Likud government would do its best to avoid war and bring the nation towards peace saying, "We hate war and bloodshed. We want peace for the people of Israel and our neighbours."

Begin was received very well by the 9,000 people packed into the Yad Eliyahu stadium, and after pledging the Likud to help the deprived parts of the population, devoted most of his speech to defence and foreign affairs.

The riotous applause for Begin turned into whistles and catcalls as Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat took Begin's place on the platform.

Lahat protested the crowd's reaction saying that he had done more than any other mayor for Tel Aviv's poorer quarters, but the crowd did not seem disposed to listen to him. (Him)



President-elect Jimmy Carter, centre, laughs at comment of his Vice-President-elect Walter Mondale, right, at opening of meeting on St. Simons Island with some members of his cabinet. Others are Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, left, Office of Management and Budget chief Bert Lance, Economic Council chairman Charles Schultze. (UPI telephoto)

Olmert says police have material to warrant probe of Ofer on housing

By AARON SEITNER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Likud MK Ehud Olmert yesterday called on Housing Minister Avraham Ofer to disqualify himself from all matters relating to the Histradrut's Shikun Ovdim construction company.

Olmert told the Knesset, in a motion for the agenda: "I have learned that in recent weeks the police have gathered sufficient leads to warrant an investigation into possible unlawful actions by Shikun Ovdim during the period in which Mr. Ofer served as its director-general."

Olmert added: "I hope that the truth will come out in the near future — either way. In the meantime, I suggest that Mr. Ofer, as Housing Minister, cease all his efforts on behalf of the firm, such as urging the Treasury to help Shikun Ovdim Company out of its extremely serious financial straits."

According to Olmert, Shikun Ovdim's current troubles are not wholly due to the general slowdown in the housing market, but to "basically bad mismanagement." Also, instead of sticking to its original aims of building flats for workers, the Histradrut firm had gone into the luxury housing field and had become enmeshed in the recession.

"Now, when things look black, they are coming hat in hand to the Government, asking that the Treasury bail them out. This is unpardonable. Let the Histradrut and its affluent Hevrat Ovdim holding company pick up the tab," said Olmert.

"But under no circumstances should Ofer, who himself headed Shikun Ovdim before becoming Minister, now plead their case as Minister."

"I don't know who gave Olmert the right to act as spokesman for the Israel Police," Minister Ofer said in reply. "He is merely hurling aspersions into the air."

"As for Shikun Ovdim, I certainly know more about that company than Olmert. And if the Histradrut's comptroller has found out something about Shikun Ovdim, that is not the business of the Knesset, but something for the Histradrut's Executive or Hevrat Ovdim to act upon, if they wish."

On his former ties to Shikun Ovdim, Ofer continued: "No housing company receives special treatment from my office, and every operative move I sanction in the housing field goes before the Knesset Finance Committee for approval."

Ofer insisted the Treasury must aid all housing companies in distress since the day will soon come when thousands of new flats will be needed, and the builders must be kept in business.

Adviser says State Dep't fought Truman on Israel recognition

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — During the months preceding President Harry S. Truman's decision to support the partition of Palestine and later to recognize the new-born State of Israel in 1948, the State Department, which opposed both moves, sought to counter the President by establishing a link between Communism and Zionism.

This was disclosed yesterday by Clark Clifford, who served as Truman's special counsel in the White House and later became Defence Secretary in the Johnson Administration.

Referring to a May 12, 1948 White House meeting on whether the U.S. should extend diplomatic recognition to Israel two days

later when the Mandate was to end, Clifford said that then-Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett brought forward reports alleging connections between Zionists and Communists.

"At that point, he (Lovett) pulled out a file of reports suggesting again that large numbers of Jewish immigrants were Communists," Clifford recalled yesterday. "I felt that this was preposterous. Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe in fact were specifically fleeing the Communists."

Clifford, addressing the American Jewish Historical Society, was among those White House advisers who were urging Truman to recognize Israel but were resisted by Arabists in the State Department.

On Monday, Clifford first broke

a 28-year personal silence on this sensitive chapter in U.S. history when he told CBS News that the State Department had consistently ignored and subverted Truman's policy directives in 1948. Yesterday, he presented a lengthy paper on the subject, expanding on that interview.

The entire question of U.S. policy on "the Palestine question," as it was then called, was reopened last month when the State Department released previously-classified documents relating to the subject.

Although Lovett opposed recognition of Israel at that crucial May 12 meeting, he later reversed his position and was, in fact, instrumental in reinforcing Truman's original views, according to Clifford.

Truman had supposedly left the

Move to rush Labour choice of candidate

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

Some Labour Party leaders are advocating that the party's outgoing Central Committee decide who Labour's candidate for the premiership should be. The move is designed to put an early end to the rivalry between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Defence Minister Shimon Peres.

According to some reports, Finance Minister Yehoshua Sabsovitz is active in these behind-the-scenes moves. Asked about the possibility of an early decision, the Minister told The Jerusalem Post last night: "I know nothing yet."

Those arguing for an early decision say that the naming of a candidate now cannot take place less than 2 1/2 months before the probable date of Knesset elections. As things now stand, the Labour convention, in late February, will decide whether it, or the Central Committee, selects the party's candidate.

Continuation of the Rabin-Peres rivalry until then, some observers feel would seriously damage Labour's chances in the Knesset elections.

Opponents of an early decision contend that the outgoing Central Committee should decide on only immediate matters, and not on issues which will have far-reaching consequences. MK Avraham Silberberg noted that 80,000 people recently joined Labour. "We told them to join us so that they can influence decisions. Are we going to stop them from taking part in a decision on such an important issue?"

It is difficult to predict what the convention would do. Party members will vote for delegates

on February 1, presumably choosing persons popular in their branches, and not picking them because they support either Rabin or Peres.

In the outgoing Central Committee, which elected Labour's candidate for the premiership on April 22, 1974, 298 members supported Rabin, while 254 supported Peres. This means that if 23 members who had voted for Rabin had backed Peres, the latter would have won the nomination.

Silberberg, who had campaigned for Rabin but now supports Peres, told The Post: "I haven't met one Central Committee member who supported Peres but now backs Rabin. I've met tens of committee members who supported Rabin but now support Peres."

But MK Yossi Sarid said that some members of the former Mapai faction would not vote for Peres if it meant dismissing Rabin. "It's (because of) an old Mapai mentality," he said. (The members of the former Mapai faction will cast the decisive votes. The ex-Rafi faction is expected to support Peres while the ex-Abdud Ha'avoda faction is expected to vote for Rabin.)

Meanwhile both Rabin and Peres are holding intensive consultations with potential supporters. A source close to the Prime Minister told The Post Rabin has been receiving individuals and delegations. He invited some and others asked to see him, the source said.

In these meetings, the Prime Minister stresses the need for party unity. Internal clashes will weaken Labour in the coming Knesset elections, he adds.

Peres is reported to have met

Election date to committee today

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

The Knesset is expected to vote four proposals for May elections to the Law Committee, where a compromise agreement on a May 17 date is anticipated.

Four different bills have been tabled calling for elections during the month of May. The Alignment's proposal is for a May 31 vote, the Likud and Rakah for May 3, and the National Religious Party for May 17. The Alignment, Likud and NRP already have come to an understanding on the May 17 date.

Meanwhile, President Ephraim Katzir continued his consultations, yesterday, meeting representatives of the Independent Liberal Party, the Free Centre and Rakah. All advocated earlier elections.

The President asked the ILP delegates whether they would join a Cabinet headed by Prime Min-

ister Rabin, or Likud leader Menachem Begin. The delegation, which did not believe either could form such a cabinet, told the President: "These are hypothetical questions we haven't considered. We don't think there is any sense in referring to purely hypothetical questions."

The Free Centre's Akiva Nof suggested the President ask the leader of his faction, Shmuel Tamir, to try and form a new Cabinet. Nof argued that the Alignment and Likud cannot form a new Cabinet, so a leader of a centre faction should be given a chance.

Rakah's Meir Winner said attempts to form a new Cabinet before elections were "futile," because no one can muster the necessary majority.

The President will today receive delegations of the Citizens' Rights Movement, and the Independent Socialist faction.

Carter undecided on M.E. talks or sending envoy

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — President-elect Jimmy Carter and his advisers have not yet decided whether to send a special envoy to the Middle East early next year to meet with Israeli and Arab leaders or to invite them to the U.S. for talks.

Carter aides said yesterday that Secretary of State Kissinger's advice was to send Cyrus Vance, the designated Secretary of State, or some other senior official to hold preliminary consultations.

Before the resignation of Prime Minister Rabin, Carter was said to be leaning toward the idea of inviting Rabin, Egyptian President Sadat, Syrian President Assad and other Arab leaders to Washington. Carter believed that sending an emissary would have unnecessarily raised Arab expectations for a quick U.S. push on Arab-Israeli negotiations.

But with Rabin's resignation, Carter is now said to have second thoughts. "He has not made up his mind one way or the other," one official said yesterday. But he added

that Carter has not ruled out any option.

Other Carter sources said the new President was uncertain whether or not such visits would be appropriate before the Israel elections in May.

Vance was reported to have told Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinits shortly after Rabin fired the National Religious Party ministers, that Carter would decide on an invitation to Rabin on the merits of achieving additional progress towards peace, without taking into consideration the fact that Rabin headed a minority government.

Carter and his advisers are aware of the sensitive nature of an invitation to Rabin because of its implications in the Israel elections. Rabin, presumably, would win added prestige by such a visit, and is reportedly anxious to come.

One Carter source yesterday said that it was "entirely possible" that Carter would neither invite the Arab and Israel leaders to Washington, nor dispatch a special representative to the region, preferring instead to await the outcome of the Israel elections before taking new U.S. diplomatic initiative.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, possible local rain in the morning.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	24	10-16	14
Golan	68	6-18	14
Nahariya	32	9-22	19
Safed	53	6-13	11
Haifa Port	50	11-20	18
Tiberias	59	9-18	16
Nazareth	47	9-18	16
Afula	47	6-20	18
Shomron	32	9-17	16
Tel Aviv	37	10-23	20
B-G Airport	19	6-24	22
Jericho	48	7-21	22
Gaza	50	11-24	23
Beerseba	15	11-22	20
Bilat	18	11-22	22
Tiran Straits	49	14-26	24

Social and Personal

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday received the Governor of Pennsylvania, Milton Shapp, at his office in Jerusalem.

Women's chess champion Alla Kushnir, co-winner of the recent international chess tournament in Holland, was the luncheon guest of the Prime Minister, Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen and Education Minister Aharon Yadin at the Knesset yesterday.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yerusha Meshel had talks yesterday with the Secretary-General of the Italian Socialist Party, Bettino Craxi. Craxi is also deputy chairman of the Socialist International.

Professor Michael Schlesinger has been elected a Vice-President of the Hebrew University by the University's executive council. He is professor of experimental medicine and cancer research.

Professor Mordechai Sokolovsky has been appointed Vice-President for Research and Development at Tel Aviv University. He replaces Professor Shalom Aharan, who was recently elected rector of the University.

Dr. Gavriel Ben-Dor, Dr. Emanuel Nof-Avram, Prof. Uri Smilansky and Prof. Shmuel Zeitman were awarded grants from the Landau foundation yesterday. The grants were awarded 30 days after the death of the former head of Mifal Hapais, Dr. Michael Landau.

Dr. Yitzhak Minerbi, Director of the Common Market department of the Foreign Ministry, will speak at the "European Community Today and its Repercussions on Israel" at the weekly meeting of the Jerusalem Rotary Club at 1 o'clock in the Y.M.C.A. today.

Haifa District Court President Yehoshua Gubernik will speak on "Problems of the Judiciary" at today's meeting of the Haifa Rotary Club at the Nof Hotel at 1 o'clock.

A grove of 1,000 trees in honour of George Eliot is to be dedicated tomorrow at noon in the International Women's Forest near Tur'an in the Galilee. The grove marks the centenary of the first publication of her novel "Daniel Deronda."

Galilee local leaders agree to cooperate

TIBERIAS. — Joint resolutions supporting cooperation on matters affecting Jews and Arabs in Galilee were unanimously adopted at a meeting of Jewish and Arab local authority leaders here yesterday.

At times the meeting, which had been called by Tiberias Mayor Moshe Tzohar and Rameh local council chairman Hanna Morla, became stormy as Arab council members attacked the recommendations contained in the Koenig document.

Guest speaker was Local Authorities Union chairman Pinhas Eylon.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of

MOSES RIVLIN

a former editor of Tag Morgen Journal, a resident of Givatayim, the son of Joseph Rivlin, one of the first to build outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, and a pioneer settler of Petah Tikva.

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Thursday, December 30, 1976, leaving at 2 p.m. from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlour, Jerusalem.

Transport to Jerusalem for those wishing to attend will leave at 12 noon from the house of the deceased, 13 Rehov Mishmar Hayarden.

Wife, Rose
Son, Joseph Ziv
Daughter, Ora
grandchildren and great-grandchildren
and the families in Israel and abroad

JULIUS ROSENBERG

of Melbourne, formerly of Cape Town, has passed away suddenly in Tel Aviv.

Deeply mourned by his wife, Dolly, sons Essex and Howard, family and friends.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

On the first anniversary of the death of

GOODY WINTERS

we will hold a memorial service at his grave tomorrow, Thursday, December 30, 1976, at 2.30 p.m. We shall meet at the entrance to Herzliya cemetery. The Family and Friends

Peres 'obeys law, not halacha' on conscripting girls

By AARON SITTNER

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

When *Halacha* clashes with a law passed by the Knesset, "I shall obey the Knesset law and not the *Halacha*," Defence Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

(*Halacha* is the codified body of law covering all aspects of life for the Jew, as extracted from the Bible and Talmud by the Rabbis following the era of the Babylonian Talmud.)

Peres' statement on where his prime loyalty lay came during his reply to an agenda motion by the Yehuda Meir Abramowitz of the Tora Front. Abramowitz — an ordained rabbi — wanted the House to discuss "the new wave of harassment of girls who apply for exemption from the army on religious grounds."

Monday more than a dozen leading Israeli rabbis and yeshiva deans proclaimed a half-day *bi'hal w'halacha*, a business and work stoppage, to enable tens of thousands of persons to demonstrate in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and elsewhere against the alleged harassment.

Abramowitz said the committees empowered to grant exemptions have lately been subjecting young girls to tests of *Halacha* "which even well-versed adults could not pass."

In 1948, Abramowitz said, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and the then Social Welfare Minister, Yitzhak Meir Lewin, came to an agreement according to which all religious girls would be exempt from military service.

"Records of the defence forces will show that the army respected this agreement in the 'forties and 'fifties," Abramowitz told Peres. "Lately, however, the screening committees have taken a tough stand and are forcing young women to enter the army against the dictates of their religious convictions."

As for the *Halacha* aspect, Abramowitz said Israel's leading rabbinical authorities have ruled that refusal to serve in the army is for a girl an edict which she must fight for with her life — *yeharag v'lo yavoos*.

According to Abramowitz "it is doubtful if the army really needs all the girls it wants to conscript. Why, so many of them do nothing but clerical work — work that could be done by civilian employees, and at a cost lower than that it takes to train, feed, clothe and otherwise maintain a girl soldier."

Women in the army are more prone to sin, he claimed, and quoted Talmudic sources as saying, "Whoever forces a person to sin commits a greater crime than he who would kill him."

Replying, Defence Minister Peres said Israel is "a tiny country, outnumbered by its enemies" that it must exploit its manpower resources to the hilt.

Peres denied the screening committees are stiffening up against the girls. He said "sometimes" the girl

is held for throwing a table at council head

Kfar Sava. — A man who is suspected of attacking the head of the Ra'anana local council after his request for a flat was turned down, was remanded yesterday for six days at the Kfar Sava Magistrate's court.

Yosef Ovdia, 27, of Ra'anana came to the office of the council chairman on Sunday and demanded that he be given a flat. After local council head Benyamin Wolfowitz told him he could not help him, Ovdia allegedly threw a table at him and spat in his face.

Judge Hanna Sharon decided to release Ovdia on bail but after the police representative asked for another hearing in which he said the court's job is to protect public servants, the judge agreed to remand Ovdia for six days.

THE BEIT DAGON youth club has received a 'Hanukkah' gift of IL40,000 from the Givatayim Rotary Club, in the form of scholarships for further education for young people in the Beit Dagon area.

Labour outvoted on quorum bill

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A LIKUD-APPROVED private member's bill introduced in the Knesset yesterday was the occasion for the first parliamentary defeat for the Labour Alignment since the Government resigned last week.

Proposing amendment of the Basic Law, Knesset, Moshe Arens declared that Israel is almost alone — along with Finland and Sweden — which allows its legislature to operate without a quorum.

To correct this situation "and bring the Knesset into line with most parliaments in the world," Arens proposed that if fewer than 25 Members are present, the Speaker or acting Speaker would be obliged to terminate the sitting if five of the Members present so demand.

Alignment whip Moshe Wertzman asked that the Arens amendment be struck from the agenda. But the vote gave the Alignment only 27 for removal, as against 35 to send the amendment to committee. The latter included the votes of the Likud, National Religious Party, the Civil Rights Movement and the Free Centre.

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Burg tells High Court Rabin pulled a fast one

THE PRIME MINISTER deliberately concealed his intention to resign, and thus bring about the resignation of his government, from National Religious Party and Independent Liberal Party cabinet ministers, former Interior Minister Dr. Yosef Burg argues in his response to applications to the High Court, over the continuation of ministers from those parties in the transitional government.

The decision of the Prime Minister to dismiss the NRP ministers has no basis and was clearly politically motivated, he adds. If they had known the Prime Minister's intentions, the ministers would have behaved differently, he says. In his response, Burg does not oppose the application calling for the reinstatement of the NRP ministers in the Government.

In a written response, former Independent Liberal ministers Kol and Hausner stress that in their opinion no-one can deprive a minister of the right to resign. Showing about the same degree of eagerness to stay out of the transition government as Burg manifests to get back in, they point out that the possibility of their resignation arose some time before the cabinet crisis over the P-15 display on a Friday afternoon.

They claim further that their resignations went into full effect as soon as they were offered to Rabin, and as they did not withdraw them within the 48 hours that followed, they have ceased to be members of the Government.

It was learnt that former Welfare Minister Zevulun Hammer intends to make a written response to the applications to the High Court, but former Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rabin is unlikely to react.

The Government's position will be put to the court by Attorney-General Aharon Barak today or tomorrow.

Call for budget year to start in October

Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter

A PROPOSAL to start the budget year in October instead of in April has been put forward by Sar-Shalom Shiran, Director of Budgets in the Finance Ministry.

According to Shiran, the change will overcome the difficulties of the election year, apart from having additional merits.

From the political viewpoint, Shiran said yesterday that both Coalition and Opposition will profit. If the Coalition wins the elections, it will be able to review its own policy and make the necessary adjustments. If the Opposition wins, it will have the possibility of drafting a new budget without being bound by the budget prepared by the present administration.

The IL22.5b. 1977 budget prepared by the Treasury is based on additional revenues of IL4,000m., which require Knesset approval. However, since the Government lost its majority, the possibility of collecting these revenues is doubtful. Without the revenues, the budget deficit will

reach IL9,000m., which will cause a price hike higher than the estimated 25 per cent for next year and will have ruinous effects on the balance of payments.

Shiran noted these other benefits in the proposed change:

- October is the closest date to the beginning of the academic year in schools and universities. It is also the customary beginning of the agricultural year. The change will thus make it easier to budget for these two important sectors.

- The U.S. budget now also begins in October. Because Israel's budget is strongly linked to the U.S., the proposed change will make the two budgets.
- A sentimental point — the late David Ben-Gurion also favoured bringing the budget year in line with the Hebrew calendar.

Shiran proposes that although the Government will table the whole budget in the Knesset, the Finance Committee will be asked to approve spending only half of this sum, carrying the Government through till October.

With profound sorrow, we mourn the untimely death of

BAYLA S. SCHNAIDMAN

née Chesir

who died in New York City. Her coffin will arrive today, Wednesday, December 29, 1976, on El Al flight 004.

The funeral service will take place at the Sanhedria Cemetery at 5 p.m. (or, if the flight is late, 2 hours after landing), and the cortege will proceed to Har Hamemot.

For details, please contact Tel. 02-38564 or 02-35157.

The Family

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of

ALEX ROSE

one of the leaders of the Labour Movement in the USA. The funeral will take place in New York on December 30.

The Family is Israel and abroad

THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
We offer sympathy to Sid Ivkar on the death of his

MOTHER

Management and Staff of Havat Noi



Samuel Flatto, accompanied by police officers in Jerusalem's Russian Compound yesterday, on his release on bail.

Insurance for cars being cut

By GIDION ESHEET

Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter

CAR OWNERS will receive the difference in what they paid for the compulsory no-fault third-party car insurance and the proposed lower rates within two months of their approval by the Knesset Finance Committee. Insurance Commissioner Ya'akov Pickler yesterday promised that payment of the rate, which he proposed, would not be delayed more than six to eight weeks.

The committee will discuss Pickler's proposed lower rates this week. A source close to insurance circles told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that if the committee approves the proposal, it also will be accepted by the insurance companies.

The proposed reductions in insurance rates are as follows:

- Passenger cars, 13 per cent.
- Trucks and commercial cars, 25 per cent.
- Taxis, 15 per cent.

Three Arab families evicted from Old City

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Three Arab families yesterday quietly left their homes in Rehov Misgav Ladach in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem after being evicted at the end of a protracted legal struggle. The neighbouring families had refused alternative housing offered them in a new housing estate in north Jerusalem. They were among the last Arabs living in the Jewish quarter.

Police lose bid to stop sex show

TEL AVIV. — The "Happening 2000" sex show will stay on the stage after a municipal court yesterday turned down a police request to close down the show.

The police representative said the show is obscene and is held in a hall without a licence. Judge Mordcha Oren rejected the police claim, saying that since the films and stage censorship committee had passed "Happening 2000" there is no call to accept the police opinion that the show is obscene.

Bailiffs sweep on Tel Aviv debtors

TEL AVIV. — Bailiffs and police swept down on hundreds of debtors in Tel Aviv yesterday and made several arrests.

The bailiffs' director, Haim Bachover, said that debtors who can, but do not obey court orders to pay their debts will be arrested. The police has recently decided to devote more manpower to reinforcing the bailiffs.

Labour's choice

(Continued from page one)

"hundreds" of people to gauge their support. The Defence Minister reportedly indicates he can draw more votes than Rabin, and under him there will be greater collegiality.

Labour Knesset Members told *The Post* their main consideration is who offers a better chance of producing a victory in the May elections. These MKs said neither will produce a victory if they present the incumbent team, which includes Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Housing Minister Avraham Ofer and Labour Minister Moshe Baran, who are not popular.

One Knesset Member, who asked not to be identified, told *The Post*: "Some people define themselves as pro-Rabin on condition he introduces far-reaching changes in his team. Unless changes are introduced, (we'll) have to vote for Peres, against our will, if he presents a team which can attract the voters."

The Rabin-Peres rivalry has prompted leaders of the Beit Tavori protest group (in Labour) to drop their plan to hold a large meeting to voice their criticism of the situation in the party.

One of the group's leaders told *The Jerusalem Post* (after their meeting in Jerusalem yesterday): "We're divided on a choice for Prime Minister. This issue would have emerged as the main topic in the meeting."

But the group's leaders maintained they were still united in their demand to eradicate the former factions, replace some of the incumbent leaders, and introduce a system for electing the party's representatives instead of appointing a nominations committee.

Flatto uses properties to post IL10m. bail

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Financier Samuel Flatto (Sharon) was finally released from custody yesterday, two days after the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court set a record bail of IL10m.

Yitzhak Tunkin, his counsel, said the delay was the result of technical difficulties in drawing up the list of his client's Israeli properties offered as security. Flatto is wanted by the French government for alleged tax evasion and fraud, amounting to 400,000 French francs (ELib.).

Tunkin noted that the French have until January 17 to submit a formal extradition request.

At about 1 p.m. yesterday, Flatto left the National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem where he was held. The attorney said the financier had a room to himself. Flatto's wife was allowed to visit him, the attorney said, but she was not allowed to remain with him.

In a parliamentary question addressed to Police Minister Shlomo Hillel yesterday, Meir Pa'il (Moked) asked why Flatto "was provided with a heated room, a telephone and a luxury bed during his detention. Why was he permitted the company of his wife, most of the time, unlike other detainees?"

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry claimed its records show no irregularity on its part or that of the consulate in Venezia in issuing five passports, each in a different name, to the

financier. Ministry spokesman Yitzhak Agassi said yesterday that an examination of Flatto's file showed three passports were cancelled and one was declared lost.

He said that if further investigation showed that Flatto had claimed that he lost a passport, the Ministry would bring charges in any case, he said, the "lost" passport had expired.

The spokesman explained that two of the passports were cancelled when the papers were altered with visas and a third, forgotten when Flatto changed his name. In each case, the spokesman said, every page was stamped "void" before the documents were returned to the bearer.

The police spokesman said they were in the custody of the court. Flatto had five passports to put them in the custody of the court. Now that the passports were deposited, it was immaterial whether they were valid or not, the spokesman said.

Flatto said in a television interview last night that he had never denied the existence of a "serious fiscal problem" with the French authorities. The problem would be settled in France, he said. It was connected with a group of investors with whom he was involved.

He said he had no intention of returning to France, because preliminary investigative detention could last a number of years there.

German soccer names at Ramat Gan today

By PAUL KOHN

Jerusalem Post Soccer Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Seven footballers playing in the West German First Division will be included in the German Olympic team to face Israel at Ramat Gan this afternoon.

Kick-off will be at 4.45 p.m. This game is to be preceded by the youth international between Israel and Switzerland at 2.45 (See below).

The Germans were amateur champions of Europe in 1974, but failed to reach the Olympic finals after being beaten by Spain 2:3 in Spain. In a previous encounter with Israel's national side in 1969, the teams drew 1:1.

The German team will be captained by defender Egon Schuster of Saarbrücken, who claims 70 international amateur caps.

Other first division players in the line-up are the Kaiserslautern strikers Hans Peter Briegleb and Helmut Wilhelm and defenders Ernst Trasser (Saarbrücken), Reiner Nikot (Cologne), Karl-Heinz Gellie (Werder Bremen) and Matthias Herget (Bochum). Another experienced international is Ewald Hammes, a Second Division player, who had appeared 38 times for West Germany's amateurs.

The games have been dispersed to different parts of the country as follows: Tomorrow, Denmark v Sweden, in Givatayim. On Saturday in Beerseba, Switzerland v Greece at 12.30 p.m.; Rumania v Sweden at 2.30 p.m. On Sunday in Ramat Gan, Israel v Greece, at 2.30 p.m. On Sunday in Nazareth, Denmark v Rumania, at 2.30 p.m. The final will take place next Monday at Ashdod.

Tickets for today's game at Ramat Gan will be sold to youth from IL5, with the match between Israel and the West German Olympic team included.

Ramat Gan Hapoel grabs lead

By PAUL KOHN

Jerusalem Post Soccer Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Ramat Gan Hapoel yesterday went to the top of the Second Division (Liga Artzit) at the halfway stage of the soccer season, with a 3:1 away win over Hadera Maccabi. This is the first time that Ramat Gan Hapoel has taken over the leadership.

All four goals were scored in the second half. Yehoshua Denlevsky

getting two and Avi Buxenbaum one for Ramat Gan Hapoel, and Yoram Levi scoring the home side's goal.

The Ramat Gan side is now on the 16-point mark from 11 games, one point ahead of Bnei Yehuda. Hadera Hapoel and Sha'arayim Maccabi.

The previously postponed game between Hadera and Bnei Yehuda, which police had feared following the earlier Givat Olgin riot,

Speedboat crew deny terrorism charges

IAZA. — Five Arabs who arrived in a Tel Aviv beach by speedboat last Roosh Haabshan went on trial yesterday before the military court. They pleaded not guilty to charges of belonging to a terrorist organization, of undergoing military training in Lebanon and Egypt, conspiring to commit criminal acts and carrying weapons without a licence.

The five accused are Mustafa Dib, Abu Ayed, 28, charged with being in command of the group, and weilers, 30, Sa'ad, 38, Rashad Khashkha, 31, Sa'ad Ahmad, 30, and Abdo Rabbo Swellmen, 38.

The hearing was postponed until next month. Immediately after the case was taken from the court, another group of four were brought in. They were joined by one of the original accused, Sawarka, and charged with having worked for Egyptian intelligence from August, 1976.

The other members of the second group are Sa'ad Radli, 44, Abdulrahman Abu Suleiman, 32, Mohammed Moaslem, 32, and Mohammed alabneh, 42.

Their charge-sheet says, among other things, that they met with Egyptian intelligence officers in Egypt and received instructions from them on what kind of information to transmit and how to go about sending it.

They passed information to the Egyptians on the movement of IDF units and the location of army installations, the indictment goes on. Two of them are charged with placing a mine around an El Arish police station. An IDF officer was injured when the mine exploded. Two other mines were found in their possession.

Sawarka, one of the crew of the speedboat, is accused of being the contact man between the two groups.

The hearing in the second trial was also postponed to next month, after the accused pleaded not guilty.

At the opening of the espionage trial, counsel for Mohammed Moaslem, complained that his client could not have been treated brutally during interrogation, and that his sexual organs were injured, as a result of which he was still suffering pain.

Court President Sgan-Aluf Yakovov Or ordered that the accused should have the immediate opportunity of a medical examination, the results of which will be available for use as evidence by either side during the trial. (Him)

Christmas violence claims 72 in S. Africa, 45 in Rhodesia

JOHANNESBURG. — A total of 72 blacks were killed during the Christmas weekend in fighting between black groups near Cape Town and in the coastal Natal Province, officials said yesterday.

Three black townships outside of Cape Town were calm but tense yesterday after three days of fighting between militant workers and local students that left 26 dead and 106 injured.

In Natal Province, 46 blacks were killed in inter-tribe clashes. Police reported tribesmen fought one another with clubs and short spears. No reason was given for the violence in which at least 30 huts were burned.

In the Cape Town area, police reinforcements were flown from Pretoria to patrol black suburbs after unrest sparked by militant students demands for blacks to not celebrate Christmas.

The migrant workers, from tribal reservations, were displeased by threats and demands by local youths to observe a "Black Christmas" to mourn those killed, injured or jailed without charge during rioting earlier this year.

In three days of fighting, 85 houses have been burned, 94 houses extensively damaged and 14 vehicles destroyed, officials said.

The migrant workers, with white rags tied around their throats, hacked local residents with clubs, knives and stones. A number of police vehicles were stoned after which police opened fire killing at least two persons.

The migrants come to Cape Town to work primarily in public works projects, at the harbour or for milk delivery companies. They live in barracks-like single men's hostels and send money to their families in the rural areas.

Meanwhile, forty-five blacks, including at least 12 civilians, died in Rhodesia's guerrilla war over Christmas, security headquarters said yesterday.

"Among those killed were a number of women caught in cross-fire when terrorists attempted to use them as shields to make good their escape," a communiqué said.

Nationalist guerrillas fighting the white minority regime were said to have killed nine black civilians, including four women who were tortured before being shot.

A total of 33 guerrillas and Africans assisting them had been killed since December 22, the communiqué stated. Several blacks were wounded in clashes with security forces.

The communiqué added that three Africans were killed when they broke a night-time curfew. (Reuters, AP)



A black woman sits with her two children and all the possessions she could gather after fleeing the South African township of Nyanga during the Christmas weekend rioting. (AP wirephoto)

Hua pledges party cleanup as China's goal for 1977

TOKYO. — Chinese Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng was reported yesterday to be planning a massive reorganization of the Communist Party to rid it of the influence of the radical Shanghai "gang of four."

Speaking on Saturday before the plenary session of the Second National Agricultural Conference, Hua announced that a programme to consolidate and clean up the Party at all levels will be launched "at an opportune time" and people's congresses will be held in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions "at an appropriate time" during the next 12 months.

He said the Party shakeup next year is necessary because new Party members were recruited in violation of the party constitution, cadres improperly promoted and "bad elements smuggled into leadership bodies."

Condemnation of the "gang of four" was one of the major subjects at Saturday's conference. One Shanghai official said that the leaders of the "gang of four" had tried to distribute weapons to the Shanghai militias as Mao Tse-tung was dying.

Hua, was quoted as saying that

if the radicals had not been suppressed there would have been "a major civil war" and foreign aggression in China.

The Hsinhua news agency first reported excerpts from Hua's speech Monday, but yesterday it followed up by broadcasting the Chairman's address in great detail, terming it an "important" statement.

In it, Hua disclosed that besides suffering earthquakes of a devastating nature, China had been stricken by drought, water-logging, low temperatures early frost "and other adversities" during 1976. The Tangshan quake in July "inflicted a loss of lives and property that is rarely seen in history," he said, without giving figures.

While claiming "a great historic victory" in 1976, he said there will be "all sorts of difficulties" ahead because of "the prolonged interference and sabotage by the 'gang of four' in the political, ideological, organizational, economic and other spheres." He said the country's first task was to step up the campaign against them.

Egypt denies Goldmann claims as 'unfounded'

CAIRO. — Informed Egyptian sources yesterday dismissed as "unfounded and completely untrue" Dr. Nahum Goldmann's report that the World Jewish Congress is planning a meeting between American Jewish leaders and President Anwar Sadat.

The sources also dismissed as untrue Goldmann's comment, made on his arrival in Israel on Monday, that he was in close touch with Sadat through the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington, Ashraf Ghorbal, on the subject.

(Dr. Goldmann told him in Tel Aviv yesterday that he had not informed Prime Minister Rabin about the contacts between WJC official Philip Klutznick and the Egyptian Ambassador, because they concerned merely technical matters and there was no need for a report on them. He said that he had spoken to the Prime Minister about the proposed visit some time ago, and that Rabin had "agreed to the proposal and discussed the makeup of the delegation.")

(Goldmann made clear that he had not discussed his visit to Rabin and Yigal Alon about his talks with Presidents Tito and Ceausescu when he met with them during his current two-week visit to Israel.)

Shah sought deal with Fiat

MILAN. — Fiat president Gianni Agnelli rejected an Iranian offer to buy a major share of his financially troubled auto firm before he accepted a similar Libyan offer, the Shah of Iran said yesterday.

In an interview in the Milan "Il Giornale Nuovo" newspaper, the Shah said the recent 13 per cent share Libya bought in Fiat was a "realistic move similar to one he had proposed to the Agnelli family, which is the major Fiat shareholder, on behalf of Iran. 'I certainly would have done the same thing (as Libya),' the Shah said. 'On many occasions I have proposed various cooperation agreements with the Agnelli, but I do not understand why they always said no.'"

(AP, Reuters)

'Soviets exposed full regiment to radiation after test blast'

LONDON. — A man who claims to be a former Soviet secret police agent says in a book released yesterday that a Soviet regiment was ordered into a radioactive area after an atomic explosion and 70 per cent of the soldiers were seriously affected by radiation.

In the book "Inside the KGB," Alexander Myagkov uses the example to cite how Soviet soldiers are subject to "suffering imposed on masses by the authorities."

He says the incident occurred a number of years ago, when a motorized rifle regiment was ordered to drive through an area east of Lake Baikal after an atomic test explosion. He says the troops were told there was no danger, but many were still hospitalized years after exposure to the radiation.

Myagkov claims he was a KGB captain in counter-intelligence, stationed with a Soviet army group in East Germany, until he defected

Soviet missile emplacements reported in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK. — One of Thailand's top foreign policy experts on Monday quoted intelligence reports as saying the Soviet Union had built missile emplacements in Laos that could be turned against China or "the south."

Speaking on television, Thanat Khoman said the sites were located in the "high mountain" area of Laos but gave no further details and didn't specify whether missiles had been emplaced.

Citing "some intelligence reports," Thanat said the Soviets also have "many military facilities in the highlands of Laos."

Rumours about Soviet missiles and emplacements in Laos have circulated in Bangkok for about one year but have been impossible to confirm. Some reliable Western analysts here have been sceptical of the stories, saying that such large scale Soviet military involvement in Laos could spark a sharp confrontation with China.

Thanat, a former foreign minister and now head of the reform assembly's foreign relations committee, said "Laos is the strategic point which could control Southeast Asia." The Soviet Union and Vietnam were keenly interested in Laos, whereas the U.S. was pulling back its Asian military defences to Guam

and the Philippines, and China was more anxious about its northern frontier with the Soviet Union than its southern flank, he said.

The Soviet Union has considerably increased its involvement in Laos since the Communist takeover of the country in 1975. Estimates of Soviet personnel in the country range from several hundred to several thousand. Vietnam, which has close ties with Moscow, maintains troops in the southern part of the country.

Landlocked Laos is situated in the core of the Indochinese peninsula and borders Vietnam, China, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. (AP)

Second oil tanker fouls U.S. waters

PHILADELPHIA. — A Liberian tanker carrying 17m. gallons of crude oil ran aground Monday in the Delaware River, spilling about 2,000 gallons, the Coast Guard said.

Earlier, this month, another Liberian tanker, the Argo Merchant, ran aground and broke up off the Massachusetts coast, causing a massive oil spill which damaged fisheries and endangered Cape Cod beaches. (AP)

A tale of two new UN envoys

The plutocrat and the proletarian

By DON SHANNON
The Los Angeles Times
UNITED NATIONS. — He went to an exclusive preparatory school in Washington, D.C., then to a small liberal arts college near Philadelphia and has been on close terms with the rich and the powerful all his life.

This man, who sounds like an archetypal member of the Eastern Establishment, has just been designated as the U.N. ambassador to the U.N. The country isn't the U.S. or one of those Latin or Asian states where the local oligarchy patterns the education of youth on U.S. models. It's the Soviet Union, the world's first Socialist society, one that was dedicated to the dictatorship of the proletariat and the overthrow of privilege.

The U.S., on the other hand, whose representatives here usually have been recruited from the ranks of the well-born or at least the well-heeled, has chosen as its new ambassador a man of humbler

origins. He is Rep. Andrew Young, Democrat-Georgia, the first Black Congressman from President-elect Jimmy Carter's state since Reconstruction.

Oleg Alexandrovich Troyanovsky, who will replace Oleg Bolezhevskiy Yakov Malik as the Soviet delegate to the U.N., is as great a change from his predecessor as Young will be from the present U.S. Ambassador, William Scranton.

Troyanovsky's acquaintance with international affairs began early, with his father's nomination as the first Soviet envoy to Japan in 1927, when the boy was eight. Because the embassy was new, there was no attached school as there is in Soviet diplomatic missions today, and the ambassador's son went to the American School in Tokyo.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized the Soviet Union in 1933, Alexander Troyanovsky was shifted to Washington. Home for Oleg became a neo-classical palace built by the widow of George Pullman, the inventor of the

U.S. losing supremacy as Saudia's supplier and

NICOSIA. — European and Asian companies took billions of dollars worth of contracts away from American competitors in Saudi Arabia in 1976 and are expected to win more business next year, the English language daily "Saudi Gazette" says.

Japan, West Germany, Britain and South Korea are among the countries winning projects in Saudi Arabia's \$145b. five-year development plan, according to the edition of the paper received here on Monday.

The paper said U.S. efforts to avoid the pitfalls of the Arab boycott of Israel plus increased European and Asian competition had reduced the American share of business in the oil-rich country.

"The traditional stronghold American companies have had on Saudi markets is now broken and U.S. supremacy is being seriously challenged in this country for the first time," the paper said.

The new projects being won by Asian and European businesses include multi-million dollar deals for construction, water desalination, medical, telecommunications, electronics and aviation projects.

The list includes: a \$15b. project won by the Japanese firm IHI over the U.S. company Westinghouse for a desalination project at Jubail.

A \$165m. contract scooped by the Greek firm Archrodion from several American companies which were after a port development project at Yembow. A similar seven-birth development in Jeddah port, for which the U.S. company Brown and Root was a major con-

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Record U.S. trade deficit

WASHINGTON. — A big increase in oil imports contributed to a record monthly trade deficit of \$908m. for the U.S. in November, the U.S. Commerce Department reported yesterday.

The agency said the deficit marked the tenth month this year that U.S. imports have exceeded exports. The previous record deficit was \$888m. in August, 1974.

The Commerce Department said that for the first 11 months of 1976, the total U.S. trade deficit was \$13.1b., which would be a new deficit record for any single year if it continues through December.

Increases in imports of petroleum, food and a variety of manufactured

goods, coupled with a large drop in agricultural exports, accounts for much of the increase in the deficit in November.

Petroleum imports increased \$750m. during the month to a total \$4.6 advance more than \$3b. as importers rush to bring in as much foreign oil as possible prior to the increase in world oil prices decreed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Total imports during the month at Fort rose one per cent to more than \$10.5b., while exports fell one per cent to \$9.6b. Imports so far this year have increased at a rate of about 5 per cent over 1975, while exports are just 6 per cent higher. (AP)

King David's chant, or bluff of the century?

By JACK MAURICE
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — A record of a Hebrew chant, which it is claimed could have been sung at the court of King David 3,000 years ago, has become a Christmas season best-seller in France and the centre of a controversy between music experts.

Suzanne Haik Vantoura, a composer and organist, claims she has discovered that small marks below the text of the chant in medieval Hebrew editions of the Bible represent notes of a musical scale.

But, although she reports she spent 15 years working out which

note was represented by each sign, she brushes off questions about how she did so. Mrs. Vantoura merely says: "After all, I am a musician."

Traditional Jewish scholars have always believed that these signs were punctuation marks. But Vantoura replies: "No, they are the exact musical notation accompanying the text as it was sung at King David's court."

Vantoura has written a 510-page thesis to support her theory. She directs the choir, bass and tenor who sing her score of "Music of the Bible Revealed," which has been issued by Harmonia Mundi.

France's Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jacob Kaplan, praises her for discovering "this Hebrew chant which is steeped in piety and emotion and sends vivid religious fervour welling from our souls."

Bernard Gavoty, "Le Figaro's" distinguished music critic, compares her to Champollion, the French archaeologist who used the Rosetta stone to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.

But Prof. Simha Arom, an Israeli musicologist who lives in Paris, accuses Vantoura of perpetrating "the bluff of the century."

Arom stresses that Vantoura did not learn Hebrew until she was an adult, after receiving a classical Western musical education at the Paris Conservatoire where she won top prizes. He adds: "Her answer has nothing in common with the traditions of spoken Hebrew."

Vantoura retorts: "The ancients did not transmit their music orally, but with simple gestures. These gestures became the written symbols which we find in the Hebrew texts as diagonals, right angles, inverted horse-shoes and sharp-cornered versions of the letters."

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Palstinians promise Amin Entebbe revenge

KAMPALA. — A Palestinian group has told President Idi Amin it will avenge the Entebbe raid with a strike in America, Europe, Africa and Asia in 1977, Uganda's state radio reported yesterday.

The radio quoted a representative for the group, which did not name its leader, as saying the group would "execute its attack" and "give further details of targets in Southern Africa, for example."

The radio said a roving representative of a Palestinian organization "will be the ambassador to Amin" and "will lead the group" to "execute its attack" and "give further details of targets in Southern Africa, for example."

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One-night stands for Israel

By Catherine Rosenheimer
Jerusalem Post Reporter

"Although I am not Jewish, tonight I feel very Jewish and it is a wonderful feeling. I often wonder if I should become Jewish. I can understand the great sacrifices and the importance of that being a Jew brings. God, I pray for peace and brotherhood between all people. Amen (Signed) L.L.B."

SCRIBED on a scrap of paper, the above lines, written by an American college girl, were inspired by a performance by "Here is Israel." This is a modest Israeli troupe which has to date made three tours of the U.S. and two in South America. The troupe, which has some 300 members, has given some 300 performances in two years and is booked out "until the end of 1979." Audiences have ranged from American Zionist Federation Conventions in New York to students in the short town of Manaus, two days after the earthquake, from U.S. army bases to Catholic universities in Brazil. The show's impressive record sounds like an impressive record of success. But, according to the man who is behind it all, Fica (Samuel) Firstenberg, the whole venture is strictly non-commercial, covering its expenses "in terms of projecting Israel abroad."

Mentioned again and again in letters are the immediate rapport, the feeling of emotional identification, the positive response to Israel and all that the show elicits, and apparently not only among Jewish audiences. The Protestant chaplain at Fort McAllister, Alabama, for example, writes that "the audience was made up of about 90 per cent non-Jewish persons. Approximately 75 per cent of them were basic combat training or advanced training students. Comments have come in from the top level of command to the lowest level indicating it may have been the most enjoyable and most professionally done show the people have ever witnessed."

Performances at Fort McAllister and at six other American army bases were, according to Fica Firstenberg, amongst the most challenging and rewarding of the entire tour: "We were all literally



Members of the "Here is Israel" show currently touring the U.S.

shivering in our shoes beforehand, wondering how an audience of 1000 American G.I.'s would react to a show offering no sex, no jokes but rather an unconventional lesson in Zionism."

Firstenberg, a small dapper figure with a tanned complexion contrasting sharply with a thick shock of white hair, is a former member of the Mapam Kibbutz Yakum. He describes himself as "a product of the Establishment, but one who believes that even when you 'belong' you have to break out from the conventional framework from time to time."

He spent three years in Brazil as educational coordinator for Hashomer Hatzair and in 1964 took over the management of Tsavta, which he ran for seven years, at the request of his close friend, poet Avraham Shlonsky. It was a period when Tsavta, a literary forum, had fallen into a period of stagnation. He revived interest in it by introducing experimental theatre, music, light entertainment and evenings dealing with a multitude of current social and political problems — a formula which has been retained at Tsavta to this day.

He describes "Here is Israel" as a multi-media evening: songs and live music combined with tapes, films and dialogue, accompanied by an exhibit of Israeli-made crafts. The idea was born shortly after the Yom Kippur War. "Five thousand young volunteers from abroad saved the agriculture of our kibbutzim in 1973," he says. "I had many meetings with them. I wanted to deepen a very personal connection between Israel and people abroad, to give them the opportunity for the same face-to-face encounter and insight into our coun-

try as those 5000 volunteers had experienced."

"I put the idea of an artistic vehicle for the venture to Mordechai Bar On at the Jewish Agency. He gave me an immediate O.K., we drew up a pilot programme and tested the reaction of a group of visiting U.S. community leaders. All commented that it was the first Israeli show designated for export which was not an insult to their intelligence."

"My idea was simple enough. To take abroad a cast of talented youngsters, not big names but simply 'mensch' with personality, each with a story of his own, a cross-section of Israel."

THE CURRENT "Here is Israel" team is the fifth — a new programme and cast is presented on each tour consisting of three girls and six boys whose backgrounds and origins are as varied as you could find. Pianist and musical arranger Oded Pinhas is a kibbutnik and works for Israel radio. Bass guitarist Avner Yiphat is from Tel Aviv and studied at the Jerusalem Academy of Music. Michael Elmgren immigrated from Russia four years ago and is a xylophonist who has played with the Israel Philharmonic. Percussionist Eri Chomsky was born in Mexico, was a member of an army entertainment troupe and will be joining the Philharmonic at the end of the tour. Orit Haza is a Yemenite singer whilst Margalit Ankory is a singer and actress, a seventh generation sabra born in Tel Aviv's Hatikva Quarter, and has worked with Habima. In films and in the local production of "Hair." Other singers are Amir Ghat of Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, Danny Maseng who comes

from an American family and is also a composer and Barney Weinstein, an immigrant from Los Angeles, a recent graduate of Bet Zvi and also a former Army Troupe member.

The present programme includes the Nahal Troupe's "Shir Hashalom" performed to the background of a film, and another peace song composed by an American boy from Nahalal. Arik Einstein's "Shir Pragat" is accompanied by a film made in Czechoslovakia at the time of the Russian invasion about the funeral of the young student who immolated himself in protest. Its director subsequently smuggled it out and brought it to Israel.

Many of the songs are old favourites — hasidic melodies, "Jerusalem the Golden" and others. Audiences everywhere respond to the invitation to "sing along with Israel" and invariably the evening winds up with informal, often heated discussions triggered off by the programme: precisely the contact and identification which were Firstenberg's aim.

The next programme being planned will cover Israeli songs from Bialik to the present day and also on the cards, if a multitude of administrative and technical problems can be overcome, is a children's show with a cast of Jewish and Arab youngsters, its theme peace and unity.

The travelling arts and crafts display accompanying the performance, intended to give an exhibit has also brought in considerable repeat orders for the craftsmen participating, whilst sales of the records accompanying each show also contribute to making it fully self supporting.

Myths about bilingual homes

A FREQUENT topic of conversation among Israelis from English-speaking backgrounds is whether to encourage the simultaneous learning of two languages from early childhood. It seems generally agreed that knowing a second language is desirable. Where there is a possibility of acquiring such a skill naturally and painlessly, it would be a great loss not to do so. Doubts arise when parents consider what influence this might have on the youngster's development in his Hebrew-speaking environment.

The problems raised most often are:

1. Is the child from an English-speaking home at a disadvantage in learning to read?
2. Will the quality of his spoken Hebrew be seriously diminished because he speaks another language at home, or because the Hebrew he hears at home is grammatically incorrect and/or heavily accented?
3. Will the child feel socially disadvantaged because of the "foreign" home atmosphere?

Let's begin by examining the myth that bilingual children are more prone to reading difficulties than others. (In reality, pre-school and primary-grade youngsters and not to the older child, whose school problems are more difficult.)

What is true is that beginning instruction in reading presumes a certain level of vocabulary development without which the child is definitely handicapped. The average pre-schooler will acquire enough Hebrew in nursery school and kindergarten, even if he never hears a word of Hebrew spoken at home. By the time the primary reading vocabulary catches up to the spoken vocabulary (approximately third grade), the discrepancy in language

should be minimal. In the middle grades a complete turn-about occurs, and reading becomes the instrument for learning new words. Instead of the other way around. When a child of normal intelligence has learning disabilities which persist beyond the primary grades (excluding "subcultural" or "culturally deprived" groupings), it's time to seek reasons other than his parents' speaking another language.

WHAT ABOUT the quality of speech? This is a function of intelligence plus the norms of the community. The quality of the child's spoken Hebrew will eventually correlate more closely with the quality of the environment than with the parents' Hebrew. Don't take my word for this. You have only to open your ears or search your memory. Listen to the children of immigrant parents in your own country of origin.

Of greater impact on the quality of speech is the environment immediately beyond the confines of the family. Witness speech patterns in any given subculture, or the changes that take place in mature speech habits in certain age or occupational groups (such as adolescent or army "in" speech).

Far more likely is that the language learned from the parents will be influenced by the dominant one. We all know children from English-speaking homes who speak English with an Israeli accent or Hebrew construction: "I must to go" or "I don't know yet to read." Even the older child coming here quickly imposes the "music" of Hebrew onto his native tongue. I remember my daughter singing out "Mommie"

(ma-a-mi) to the rhythm and tune of "Imaleh."

And what about the third problem — having the "misfortune" of being called "greenhorns"? (When I was growing up in the U.S., they were called "greenhorns.") Of course, children notice and react to differences in their parents' speech. Even if your Hebrew is perfect, your child may still be embarrassed by your funny accent. All I had to do to start my kids off laughing uproariously was to pick up the telephone and say, "Hello."

AT THE RISK of sounding very flippanant, all I can say is that if this is the only reason ever give our children for being embarrassed by or ashamed of us, then we shall be very unusual parents.

Far more important is that parents communicate with their children in the language in which they are most comfortable and proficient.

Do give your child the opportunity to learn that second language, and don't worry about it. The bright child will take it in stride. Children of lesser ability will find it a great help when they start studying English in school. The retarded or disabled learner (in most of these cases, there is no reason to anticipate this in infancy) will have special problems that will have to be met when the time comes.

Every learned skill makes its contribution to the total personality development, and we recognize this by going to great pains to give our children music, dancing, art, and foreign-language lessons. Here is another language, free for the taking, if parents who possess such a skill will only do what comes naturally.

CINEMA / Sarah Wilkinson

A film not to be missed

good news and to propose marriage. Erwin (played by Bernard Le Coq) and Lola (Catherine Lachens) are distinct personalities, while Erwin and Lola are real and credible in their happiness and their despair. The director appears to have a flair for handling actors for Bernard Le Coq, who has been seen here in "Les Feux de la Chaudière," "Cesar et Rosalie" and "Les Granges Brûlées" has never been better and Catherine Lachens (seen in small roles in "Fido Story" and "Le Gitan") is vivid and human. The director seems to have an instinctive feeling how to build up a scene and regulate pace.

Rebibo has said that the theme of his film came to him from the memory of his mother's daily prayer to protect "the children of Israel from being accused of something they have not done."

The musical accompaniment is by Paul Mirak, the effective photography by Maurice Freloux and the producer is Serge Pélissier. A film that should not be missed.

character in a most convincing way. Even the two pianicostumes, alternately bullying and being buddies, are distinct personalities, while Erwin and Lola are real and credible in their happiness and their despair. The director appears to have a flair for handling actors for Bernard Le Coq, who has been seen here in "Les Feux de la Chaudière," "Cesar et Rosalie" and "Les Granges Brûlées" has never been better and Catherine Lachens (seen in small roles in "Fido Story" and "Le Gitan") is vivid and human. The director seems to have an instinctive feeling how to build up a scene and regulate pace.

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Sheer bliss to hear

Yitzhak Perlman, violin recital (Jerusalem Theatre-December 26). All-back programme. Partita No. 3 in G major, J.S. Bach; Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Paganini; Violin Concerto No. 1 in B minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 4 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 5 in A minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 6 in E minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 7 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 8 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 9 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 10 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 11 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 12 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 13 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 14 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 15 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 16 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 17 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 18 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 19 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 20 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; Violin Concerto No. 21 in D minor, Tchaikovsky; 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National service for women

THE ORTHODOX groups who took part in demonstrations up and down the country on Monday, reiterating their opposition to military service for religious women, do not represent the bulk of the observant community. Yet the views of moderates in the religious camp are essentially not so very different.

Everything centres round the traditional image of the woman as a precious and fragile object, protected by the walls of the home from being sullied through any contact with the outside world.

Yet that contact does exist. Religious women have their place in the labour market. They are found in banks, and hospitals, and Government departments. The authorities were ready to adapt the conditions of national service. Observant girls could opt for civilian assignments — in public health, education or social welfare. They would be allowed to sleep at home.

The National Religious Party has not accepted even that. It supports the voluntary approach; it urges its young girls to offer their services of their own free will. The two daughters of Dr. Burg, Israel's most long-standing Cabinet Minister, have done their bit in Nahal, which is a para-military formation, and are none the worse for it. But mobilisation — no. The Government must not be allowed to compel girls to do what religious leaders admit is perfectly kosher, if done voluntarily.

This attitude is misguided. No one likes compulsion, everybody in the country would prefer that there were no obligatory call-up. But all how the head before the national emergency. Each family responds, albeit (when it comes to daughters) reluctantly, to the call of duty.

It should be said, of course, that the boys of that community serve, and very nobly. Many members of the religious parties, notably former Knesset Member Tova Sanhedrai, would like, in their heart of hearts, to let their girls be mobilised too, if only for civilian duties. Those that do not agree (and they are the majority) should consider what their attitude implies.

Girls serving in the forces are after all exposed to acquaintanceship only with persons of their own faith. By keeping their daughters away, the religious community is depriving those recruits who have no religious background from what should be a fruitful companionship with young women brought up in the paths of virtue and tradition.

Over-protectionist attitudes are an overlap from the age of the ghetto. Girls no longer have to be hidden away. On the contrary, they should emerge from their seclusion, to take an active part in the Jewish society that has been created here. National service, military or civilian, should be a source of pride, not only for orthodox men but for women as well.

End of an epoch

IT IS a cause for sentimental regret that the small but always busy Jerusalem office of the UN Resident Representative will be finally closed this week, after a quarter of a century of devoted service to Israel's development.

Israel has outgrown the need for aid in basic skills and knowledge, thanks not a little to the work of the UN and also, in its time, to the American Point Four programme.

The impact of UN assistance was always bigger than it seemed in money terms, because its purpose was to "teach the teachers." Every expert had an Israeli counterpart, who was supposed to pick his brains.

Training centres were established — among them one for Technicians and Foremen, one for Industrial Research, one for Science Teaching, one called the Small Industries Advisory Service. The organisers and lecturers were originally UN men, handpicked from the industrialised countries. Today they are Israelis.

In contrast with the political arm of the United Nations, the technical assistance administration has always shown impartiality. It is distinguished from the various bilateral (nationality) programmes by its exclusive devotion to the interests of the recipient country.

Disappointment is all the keener that the number of fellow-ship-holders coming to learn in Israel under the UN programme has dropped — for political reasons. The responsibility lies not with the UN Development Programme, but with African countries that want to avoid ruffling Arab feathers.

The should take inspiration from the UN offices that continue operating in their various territories, and whose success derives from a scrupulous determination to keep business and politics apart. Israelis can happily say "thank you" to the United Nations for its work in this area, with a clear conscience.

Should Rabin go to Washington?

SEVERAL papers refer to Jimmy Carter's interview in "Time" magazine and speculate on whether he would actually invite Presidents Sadat and Assad and Premier Rabin to Washington for preliminary talks before Israel's elections.

DAVAR (Histradut): "From the interview, it seems that Carter has not yet decided whether to initiate such exploratory talks before the elections. If relations in the region were different, there would be some point to a postponement. But in view of the intense Arab pressures and diplomatic fevers concerning high-level political visits to Washington, it hardly seems possible to postpone the initial stage of clarifications until after the elections. A caretaker government is a government in every sense, and if Mr. Rabin is invited to Washington, he should accept the invitation, particularly as it is clear that no highly significant decision will be taken in the early stages."

AL HANISHMAR (Mapam): "Since little time remains before Carter takes over at the White House, his interview may be taken as a clear declaration of intentions concerning the Middle East. If a U.S. initiative for meetings in Washington is forthcoming, there is no reason for Mr. Rabin not to respond. He is still in office at the head of a caretaker government, which has all the duties of a regular government." The paper recalls that Golda Meir at the head of a caretaker government signed the separation-of-forces agreement, and that Mr. Churchill went to Potsdam on the eve of elections and was replaced by Attlee half-way through.

HATZOFE (National Religious Party) notes that Jimmy Carter has pressed doubts as to whether the talks with the Middle East heads of state could be held before Israel's elections. "Messrs. Rabin and Ailon apparently believe they have the right to take the initiative in political matters, as though they were still at the head of a normal majority government. This is not the case. The function of a caretaker government is merely to keep normal government functions running, but it lacks the authority to initiate political moves in any sphere. Mr. Carter has his doubts about the meeting, because he does not wish to appear to be interfering in Israel's elections indirectly. Rabin should refrain from pressuring Washington into inviting him despite its reluctance."

Sabbath: not at all 'marginal'

IT IS TOO LATE to go back to that Knesset session that caused it all? To the debate on Agudat Yisrael's non-confidence motion, on which the Mafdal (the National Religious Party) abstained? The repercussions have been reported and analyzed ad nauseam. But precious little has been said about the spark that caused the conflagration.

Yes, the Sabbath.

At least three speakers in the debate felt that to base a non-confidence motion on the Friday afternoon ceremony welcoming the arrival of the F-15's indicated a top-sided "sense of proportion." The whole business had stemmed from a misunderstanding (Moshe Carmel), there had been no deliberate intention of offending the religious public (Meir Talmi), and, all things considered, the subject was a "marginal one (Yehuda Shalev)."

Justice Minister Haim Zadok spoke in the same vein in the Cabinet meeting the following Sunday. Unlike the inauguration of Friday night television in 1969, the F-15 ceremony was only a transient incident that in no sense reflected Government policy. Mr. Zadok also pointed out, as did several speakers in the Knesset debate, that the Prime Minister had expressed regrets over the incident. What more did the religious parties want?

We now know a little more about the incident than emerged from the Prime Minister's explanation in the Knesset. We now know that three days before the scheduled ceremony Mr. Rabin (as well as the Army rabbi) urged the Air Force Chief, Aluf Benyamin Peled, to cancel the ceremony, and that Peled refused to do so.

This would seem to put the incident in a somewhat different setting. Can this really be described as a "four pence, an innocent slip, an unfortunate 'misunderstanding'?" In the Knesset, Mr. Rabin expressed his regret that the holding of the ceremony might have caused some of the spectators to desecrate the Sabbath by driving home after the onset of the Sabbath. "That was not the intention of the organisers of the ceremony, and it was not bound to happen." But, if the ceremony ended only 17 minutes before the beginning of the Sabbath, how could it not have happened?

Considering all this, is it still so patent that the religious parties overreacted? True, Mr. Rabin made an effort to stop the ceremony. True, Aluf Peled did agree to reduce the scope of the ceremony. True, Mr. Rabin took pains, after the ceremony, to get home before the zero-hour of 17:17 (although his driver probably did not make it to his home).

But even if there were good intentions here, is that good enough? At the Cabinet meeting of December 19 (the Sunday after the Knesset debate), Mr. Rabin said that the

Dry Bones

prophecy in what happened on Friday, F-15? If so, where was their voice? Exactly what role do they see for the Sabbath in the State of Israel?

How about Agriculture Minister Aharon Uzan, himself described as an observant Jew, whose letter to the Prime Minister is said to have precipitated the Cabinet crisis? What disturbed Mr. Uzan in particular was that, although the Labour Party has "more religious members than all the religious parties together," the religious parties were setting themselves up as the sole defenders of the Sabbath.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Uzan's letter does not begin with the events of Friday, December 10, but with the Cabinet discussion on December 12. That discussion, however, and the Prime Minister's apology, took place because Aguda had submitted its motion and because the NRP minister — and not Mr. Uzan — voiced their protest over the Friday ceremony.

Nor is Mr. Uzan known to have protested when in recent months the Minister of Finance held meetings with his senior officials, or with the Histradut Secretary-General, on the Sabbath. Not Mr. Uzan, nor any other spokesman for the thousands of religious members of the Labour Party and the Histradut.

What happened on Friday, F-15 is of course a reflection of the decline of Sabbath consciousness in Israel society. But the question under consideration does not involve Sabbath observance by the individual, and not, at least not just, respect for the susceptibilities of the religious. No one deludes himself that the Prime Minister every Friday rushes to get home before candle-lighting time. But he knows that this Friday it was his duty to act as "head of the tribes of Israel." Noblesse oblige. What is at issue here is whether the State of Israel shows respect for what may well be the most precious spiritual treasure of the Jewish people.

Writing in the November issue of "Patach," Dr. David Hartman asserts that the decision of the secular Zionists to create a Jewish society in Eretz Yisrael "militates against the supposedly inevitable secularization of the Jewish people." By their very revolt against Judaism, they created "the possibility of reviving Judaism in the modern world."

If no Jewish Sabbath had existed, the secular leaders of the Jewish State would have found it necessary to invent one — if they indeed wanted a Jewish, and not a Canaanite, State. And, if official desecration of the Sabbath — not necessarily in the case at hand, but never, as a matter of principle and no matter how liberally "desecration" is defined — is "not important enough an issue over which to bring down a Government," is the game really worth the candle?



READERS' LETTERS

CIRCUMVENTING THE LAW

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — On December 16, Yitzhak Oked reported that Egged's fuel bill was going to be paid again by the Ministry of Transport and told of his conversation with Egged Spokesman Raphael Rosenberg who, refusing to disclose what part of a member's wages consisted of mimshak, said: "Mimshak is a historical part of a cooperative member's wages. It is so old that I think it was handed down by Moses with the Ten Commandments."

As a matter of fact, mimshak (interest on the member's share) originated fairly recently in Egged's legal department as a device to blow up costs and justify demands for increased bus fares. At most, it dates back to the mandatory period.

To the best of my knowledge, the public has never been informed of the mysteries involved in mimshak and its calculation. As a result, one cannot but wonder whether it is merely a device flexible enough to cover all sorts of machinations.

One such machination is public knowledge: an ordinary business enterprise engaged in transport requires the necessary tools of the trade, and includes amortization of the costs of running its business. Bigged establishes subsidiary companies composed of its own members which acquire the property and tools of trade required by Egged, which then proceeds to render them from its own subsidiaries. These subsidiaries increase its expenses in order to justify additional government subsidies. An effective government would take firm action to prevent such circumvention of the law.

ITZHAQ OKED

BUILDING PRIORITIES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — As chairman of the Midwest U.S. regional council of U.J.A., I always find it a pleasure to visit your country and see for myself what my substantial contributions help achieve.

But on this, my twelfth visit here, I am a bit shocked. What startled me is the news that for some reason the Mayor of Jerusalem is ready to spend millions of pounds to build a sports stadium and amusement park.

I would agree with Mr. Kollek if I were sure that Jerusalem already had sufficient housing for its poor; its

newly-wed couples; if it had another modern hospital; if some of its best schools did not have to hold classes that were in prefabricated huts in the Soviet schoolyard.

The argument that funds for the sports stadium would come only from the sports enthusiasts is shallow indeed. These same people would not withhold their contributions once they were given to understand that schools, housing and hospitals are more urgently needed in the capital right now than a sports stadium.

JOSEPH KROMBERG
Jerusalem (Chicago).

THE JACOBSON TRIP

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — It is questionable if there is much point in Mrs. Jacobson's trip to Arab leaders speculative questions (Hesek) about their attitude towards us as a U.S. comrade years ago, as suggested in your editorial of December 14. On the other hand, it is not unlikely that Mrs. Jacobson's hosts will rephrase the question into a more topical vein, which themselves the blessings of peace, or even non-belligerence, today which they are being offered a peace agreement with the June 4, 1967 frontiers here which in those years they would have accepted with enthusiasm.

This Israeli citizen is thrilled that Mrs. Jacobson's journey to three Arab countries, and wishes her and her group a successful mission.

DEBORAH SAR
Haifa.

POSTSCRIPTS

SOME FRIENDS of Israel in Holland do more than just express their feelings of sympathy for us. One such group, which was established by the Rev. Claude Duvernon of Jerusalem in September 1974, set itself the task of raising money for Israeli war-widows and orphans.

By mid-August of this year, this group (which has its headquarters in Vlaarding) had transmitted to the Department of Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Defence a sum just short of 234,000 guilders, which is roughly the equivalent of IL239,000. Eased involved in the collection were only 1785 guilders (or IL1785). Our good Dutch friends have been informed that their contributions are going towards grants for rent, furniture and house repairs, allowances for domestic help for widows; psychiatric treatment for widows and orphans; nursing, but also, convalescent and summer camps for orphans; purchase of tools and household equipment; a special medical treatment, drug and appliances.

Carter's cabinet choices: men with experience...

WHO IS OBSESSED by the dead hand of the past? Is it Jimmy Carter in naming so many former officials to his Administration? Or his critics who see portents of another Vietnam?

My strong impression is that Mr. Carter was bound to surround himself with experienced persons. The critics, on the other hand, are going through the familiar exercise in befuddlement known as "remembering the future."

Mr. Carter and his aides, to be sure, talked about "unknowns" and "new faces" during the campaign. But their own performance during the campaign demonstrated that they knew next to nothing about running the Federal Government. In particular they were innocent when it came to the major business of managing national security policy.

When the search began after the election, a host of knowledgeable former officials came forward. The hoped for uncertainty just didn't turn up. So all the major jobs in foreign policy went to men with a past.

Not a few of these, of course, held office during the Vietnam war. Cyrus Vance, who is to be Secretary of State, served at the Pentagon during most of the buildup years. Ditto for Harold Brown, who has been appointed Secretary of Defense. Theodore Sorensen, who will be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was in the Kennedy White House when the early commitments were made, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, was the only serious danger of over-commitment lies in the place most neglected in the past — Africa. Anointed by the black Congressmen from Atlanta who will be United Nations Ambassador, has expressed, with the apparent approval of the President-elect, the view that this country has to show its good faith by supporting black rule in southern Africa.

...or the Establishment?

"JIMMY has entered to those who voted against him, commented a troubled aide to the President-elect as he reflected on Jimmy Carter's choice of Cabinet members.

It may be too simple an explanation for the manner in which Carter selected his Cabinet. But it reflects the disillusionment of many Carter supporters, including some close to him, who say the Cabinet contains too many persons connected with established interests that largely supported President Ford in the election.

Where are the fresh faces, the "outsiders," the "public-interest" types that Carter and some of his top aides had indicated he would select, these supporters asked.

The Carter Cabinet, which he had said would represent a bold departure from past Cabinets, is unique only in one sense: it contains two women instead of one — Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris. Otherwise, like most cabinets of the past, it is mostly white, male,

STARRY-EYED IDEALISTS

In fact, the U.S. has only the most limited national interest in Africa. With southern Africa almost certain to go smash, the U.S. would be far better off standing aloof and helping pick up the pieces than stepping front and centre and catching the blame.

But the serious problems ahead lie in the domestic not the foreign policy fields. The true source of peril, moreover, is that those who are now criticizing the Carter Cabinet most vehemently have not learned the lesson of the past.

The Carter critics continue to press for more extravagant social and environmental programmes. They dream dreams of the Great Society, believing it was undone only by Vietnam. They want more money spent on health care, on cities, on education, and mass transit. They favour more stringent standards on water and air pollution. They would close all loopholes in the tax code.

But the lesson of the last three elections is that the majority does not favour the liberal programme, and can be brought to support truly reactionary leaders unless there is a good-faith effort to curtail government spending. The work ethic reality is diluted by higher unemployment benefits, and programmes such as Medicaid actually do drive up health costs for everybody. What are loopholes to some are incentives to others, and environmental protection can curtail the economic growth that is a first essential for domestic and international well-being.

THE DISILLUSIONMENT over Carter's Cabinet largely is because of promises of change made by him and some of his aides.

Among the disillusioned are many blacks and liberals who blame Carter for not naming more blacks to the Cabinet and for selecting as Attorney-General Griffin Bell, an old political crony whose record as a Federal judge is not highly regarded by civil rights leaders. Carter had promised to take politics and

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